

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF PHALAEINIDAE*
FROM CALIFORNIA

By FOSTER H. BENJAMIN

Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture

The notes and descriptions in this paper are the result of the identifications of specimens submitted by Dr. John A. Comstock of the Los Angeles Museum.

One genus and one species of North American moths are described as new and the transfer of one other genus and three species is discussed.

TRICHO CERAPODA, new genus.

TYPE: *Trichocrapoda comstocki*, new species.

Antenna of male serrate and fasciculate; of female simple, ciliate. Eye large, rounded, hairy; with lashes from behind and with a few scales resembling lashes from near the base of the antennae. Palpi obliquely upturned, fringed with long scales and hair-like scales. Proboscis fully developed. Frons slightly ex-curved, roughened. Head and thorax clothed with bi- and trifurcate scales, collar tending to form a slight ridge, metathorax with a strong paired crest. Fore tibia with a curved claw on the outer side. Fore tarsus with rather evenly spaced claw-like spines on the joints. Abdomen with dorsal crests on the first three segments. Fore wing rather narrow, the apex somewhat produced, the termen obliquely curved; veins 3, 5 from near angle of cell; 6 variable from areole distad of the discocellular vein in the male, from upper angle in the female; 9 from 10 anastomosing with 8 to form the areole; 11 from cell. Hind wing with veins 3, 4 from angle of cell, 5 obsolescent from near middle of discocellulars; 6, 7 shortly stalked from upper angle; 8 anastomosing with the cell near base only.

The present genus falls in Hampson's "Keys" (Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M.) into a small group of the Hadeninae containing only *Barathra*, *Thargelia*, and *Hypobarathra*, from all of which it be immediately sorted by the presence of the claw-like tarsal spines, as well as by the combination of the roughened frons with the dorsal abdominal crests.

"*Crapoda*" *oblita* Grote has a similar claw on the fore tibia as well as the claw-like tarsal spines, and possesses hairy eyes, the hair rather difficult to see. Temporarily it may be placed in

*Noctuidae of Authors.

Trichocerapoda. "*Cerapoda*" or "*Calophasia*" *strigata* Smith also has hairy eyes, has the chitin of the fore tibia somewhat produced distally, and possesses claw-like spines on the fore tarsus. Pending further studies it may be placed in *Trichocerapoda*, where it so agrees with *comstocki* in habitus and maculation that sorting of the two species will be difficult except on the basis of the structures discussed in a following paragraph.

Cerapoda Sm. (type *obliqua* Sm.) has a few obsolescent hairs on the eyes and will also have to be transferred to the Hadeninae. It is easily sorted from *Trichocerapoda* by the absence of normal hair on the eyes, by the absence of any indication of a claw on the fore tibia, and by the presence of terminal heavy claws on the segments of the fore tarsus, the basal joint with two curved claws on the basal half.

TRICHO CERAPODA COMSTOCKI, new species.

Agrees in size, shape, coloration, and maculation with pale specimens of *Cerapoda strigata* Smith, with similar frons and tarsi, the male antenna somewhat more serrate and fasciculate, the uncus broader at the tip, the harpe less trigonate, eye with more strongly developed hair, fore tibia with an outer claw.

Head, thorax, and fore wing white, powdered with black scales. Abdomen luteous white powdered with black scales. Fore wing with the transverse markings obsolescent except for the subterminal line of the female which is obliquely excurved from near apex to near the base of the reniform, thence as a weak W-mark, and incurved around a dark tornal blotch. The male has the subterminal line indicated by a triangular dark patch on the margin distad of the cell. Basal line black, not conspicuous; claviform elongate, but poorly defined; orbicular elongate, occupying most of the cell mesad of the reniform, and sometimes contiguous with that spot; reniform strongly bent, not conspicuous, merging with the ground color except for a central darker crescent; veins indicated as fine black lines; fringe somewhat luteous at the base and paler at the tip, with a broken blackish interline giving a checkered appearance. Hind wing; of male white, the terminal margin and veins powdered with black scales, fringe white; of female more or less suffused with fuscous, the fringe with dark interline. Beneath: male white, with scattered black scales, the fore wing with a blackish bar on the discocellulars; female similar but with the dusting of black scales more noticeable, especially on the terminal areas of all wings.

EXPANSE: ♂ 27-29 mm.; ♀ 27-29 mm.

TYPE LOCALITIES AND NUMBER AND SEXES OF TYPES: Holotype ♂, Snow Creek, Coahuilla Valley, Nov. 2, 1930; 4 ♂ Paratypes, same data: Allotype ♀, Indian Wells, Oct. 15, 1921 (K. R.

Coolidge); 1 ♂, 1 ♀ Paratypes, Indian Wells, Oct. 30 and Oct. 16, 1921; 1 ♂ Paratype, Palm Springs, Oct. 22, 1927; 4 ♂, 1 ♀ Paratypes, Indio, Oct. 31, 1927, Nov. 4, 7 and 10, 1923, and Oct. 20, 1921; all from California.

TYPES: U. S. N. M., except 6 ♂ 2 ♀ Paratypes returned to Dr. Comstock.

NOTES: Described from eleven male and two female specimens submitted by Dr. John A. Comstock for identification, and one female from the U. S. National Museum Collection. Cat. No. 44075 U. S. N. M.



NEW PHALAENIDAE* FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES (LEPIDOPTERA)

By FOSTER H. BENJAMIN

Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture

The descriptions in this paper are the result of the identification of specimens submitted by Dr. John A. Comstock of the Los Angeles Museum.

One genus and two species of North American moths are described as new.

TRICHOCLEA MOJAVE, new species.

Agrees in size and habitus with *Scotogramma gatei* Smith, with similar but less pronounced markings on the fore wing, due to the presence of somewhat more fuscous powdering which tends to obscure the sordid luteous tintings.

Male antenna simple, ciliated, with a longer seta from each side of each joint; eye large, rounded, with long hair; frontal bulge approximately equal to half the width of the eye, roughened, with a roughened transverse ridge and a broader roughened vertical ridge; clypeal plate somewhat produced; all tibiae lacking spines or claws; fore tarsus with long, heavy, curved outer claws, the first joint with three claws on the basal half, one distally, and with a spine between the basal half and the terminal claw, all the remaining joints spined and each equipped with an outer terminal claw except the last joint, which possesses

*Noctuidae of Authors.